

VA Quality Scholars Fellowship

Pre- and Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Nurses VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The VA National Quality Scholars (VAQS) Fellowship Program was created in 1999. Originally established for physicians, the program grew in 2009 with the addition of pre-and post-doctoral fellowships for nurses.

MISSION

The purpose of the VAQS Fellowship program is to develop leaders in the research, teaching, and administration of health care quality improvement (QI). Mentoring is a critical component of this two-year program which links individualized training at each VA Medical Center to state-of-the-art curriculum. Nurses and physicians receive training and individualized mentoring with the goal of demonstrating competence in:

- Designing and leading interdisciplinary efforts for quality improvement.
- Teaching health professionals about health care improvement and quality.
- Conducting research and/or improvement projects.
- Developing new knowledge for the ongoing improvement of the quality of health care services.
- Applying clinical, quality improvement and health services and outcomes research methods.
- Learning successful approaches for grant writing and funding.

CURRICULUM COMPONENTS

- 25 interactive video conferences
- National program meetings
- Fellow-led improvement projects
- Clinical and education activities
- Mentoring
- Course work

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Acceptance into a DNP or PhD program OR completion of DNP or PhD in Nursing, Public Health, or related field
- Active RN license
- U. S. citizenship

FINANCIAL & OTHER SUPPORT

- Pre-Doc Fellow: \$40,532/yr
- Post-Doc Fellow: \$57,731/yr
- Health insurance benefits

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES at VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

VA Patient-Aligned Care Team (PACT) Demonstration Laboratory (Demo Lab)

Lisa V. Rubenstein, MD, MSPH; VAQS VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA) Director and Senior Scholar

Veterans Assessment and Improvement Laboratory (VAIL) is one of five national PACT Demo Labs with the purpose of using QI methods within a research/clinical partnership to develop and spread PACT innovations.

VA Women's Health Research Consortium/Practice-Based Research Network

Elizabeth Yano, PhD, MSPH; Director of the Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation, and Policy (CSHIIP)

This PBRN hosts two QI projects funded by the VA Office of Women's Health: Improved quality for women in distant primary care sites AND evaluation of current capabilities of VA emergency department care for women.

Patient Safety: Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Fall Prevention

Lynn Soban, PhD, RN; VAQS GLA Senior Scholar and David Ganz, MD, PhD; VAQS GLA Associate Director

Studies the influence of contextual features on nurses' delivery of evidence-based pressure ulcer preventive care and supports the development of a toolkit and resource guide to help clinicians and managers in their efforts to prevent falls in acute care hospitals.



CSHIIP
Center for the Study
of Healthcare Innovation
Implementation & Policy

For more information,
please visit the **VA Quality
Scholars** website at
www.vaqs.org or contact:

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